

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIE-00 PRS-01 PA-01 SCCT-01

SY-05 L-03 H-02 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 NSC-05 SS-15

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O R 051105Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8506

INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC (SMITH, HUNTER)

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPED AMERICANS: REQUEST FOR PRESS GUIDANCE

REF: KINSHASA 4767

1. IN ANTICIPATION TRANSMITTAL BY TELEGRAM OF SECRETARY'S CONCURRENCE THAT USG WILL NOT RPT NOT YIELD TO PRP DEMANDS FOR ARMS AND AMMUNITION, AND VAGNI MISSION, THEREFORE, CAN BEGIN, WE HAVE CONSIDERED WHAT WE SHOULD TELL PRESS. IT IS APPARENT WE WILL ALL WANT TO SAY THE SAME THING TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE. THERE FOLLOWS SUGGESTED PRESS STATEMENT:

2. QTE IN THE CONTINUING EFFORTS TO OBTAIN THE RELEASE OF THE THREE STUDENTS HELD IN ZAIRE, ALL GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED HAVE NOW AGREED THAT AN INTERMEDIARY MAY NOW ATTEMPT TO MAKE CONTACT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WITH THE CAPTORS. HIS EFFORTS WILL BE LIMITED AT THIS TIME TO MAKING CONTACT AND OPENING A DIALOGUE WITH THE CAPTORS, AND TO ASCERTAINING THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF THE STUDENTS. THE INTERMEDIARY WHO HAS

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VOLUNTEERED FOR THIS ROLE IS FATHER ALDO VAGNI, AN ITALIAN

PRIEST WHO IS BURSAR OF THE UVIRA DIOCESE IN KIVU PROVINCE, ZAIRE. FATHER VAGNI SPEAKS FRENCH AND SWAHILI, AND HAS HAD 17 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN UVIRA. MEANWHILE, MR. PETER STEINER IS REMAINING IN BUJUMBURA WHERE HE IS REPRESENTING THE INTERESTS OF THE PARENTS AND OF STANFORD UNIVERSITY.

Q. WHAT GOVERNMENTS HAVE GIVEN THEIR APPROVAL?

A. THE GOVERNMENTS OF TANZANIA, ZAIRE AND BURUNDI HAVE EXPRESSED MANY TIMES THEIR CONCERN FOR THE WELL-BEING OF THE STUDENTS, AND HAVE STATED THAT THEY HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO THE VAGNI MISSION.

Q. WHAT IS FATHER VAGNI PREPARED TO OFFER THE CAPTORS IN TERMS OF THEIR RANSOM DEMANDS?

-. NOTHING. HIS MISSION IS LIMITED TO CONTACTING THE CAPTORS AND ESTABLISHING A DIALOGUE.

Q. IS THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT PREPARED TO MEET ANY OF THE RANSOM DEMANDS?

A. AS A MATTER OF ESTABLISHED POLICY, THE USG DOES NOT PAY RANSOM.

Q. ARE THE PARENTS OR STANFORD UNIVERSITY PREPARED TO PAY?

A. IT IS PREMATURE TO SPECULATE ABOUT ANY CONDITIONS AT THIS TIME. UNQTE

3. WILL APPRECIATE REPLY BY NIACT TELEGRAM CONCURRENCE PRESS STATEMENT, PARA TWO, OR OTHER PRESS GUIDANCE FROM DEPT.
CARTER

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